



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Parents in Western Part of North Dakota Urged To Make Sure Their Kids are Up to Date on Required Immunizations

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health is urging parents in the western part of the state to make sure their children are up to date on state-required vaccinations.

Enrollment numbers for schools across the oil patch in North Dakota have risen dramatically this year. With all the new students, health officials are worried that many are not up to date on important vaccinations, which are required by state law. Vaccination clinics were held earlier in September in Watford City and Williston to meet this need, but turnout was disappointing. Additional clinics have been planned for September 28 and 29 to give parents a new opportunity.

“We’ve had many conversations with health-care facilities and schools in that region, and we believe there could be hundreds of children who do not meet state requirements for vaccinations,” said Molly Howell, Immunization Program manager for the North Dakota Department of Health. “This is something that parents need to pay attention to and take very seriously. If a disease starts spreading in a school with a significant percentage of unvaccinated children, the consequences could potentially be deadly. Vaccines truly do save lives.”

The North Dakota Department of Health, Southwestern District Health Unit, Trinity Health in Minot, Mercy Medical Center in Williston, McKenzie County Hospital in Watford City, Craven-Hagan Clinic and Upper Missouri District Health Unit are working together to provide vaccination clinics in Watford City and Williston this week, September 28 and 29. The clinic details are as follows:

600 E. Boulevard Ave. Dept. 301, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0200
Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

- **Friday, September 28, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Watford City Elementary School – in the gravel parking lot by the football field.
- **Saturday, September 29 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**
Williston Fairgrounds

“These vaccines are required by the state, but even more importantly, they will protect your children,” said Sherry Adams, Executive Officer at Southwestern District Public Health Unit. “A good example is the record number of whooping cough cases in the United States this year. If kids aren’t vaccinated, diseases such as whooping cough can rapidly spread in an open environment such as a school. It is our hope that parents will take advantage of these clinics to make sure their children are protected.”

A nominal administration fee may be charged for the vaccine. Costs will be billed directly to Medicaid or Blue Cross Blue Shield. Credit cards will not be accepted; cash or check only. No one will be turned away due to the inability to pay.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Everyone seeking vaccinations must bring insurance information and their complete immunization records. Any individuals from out-of-state should bring vaccination records from the states they previously lived in. For more information on how to find your immunization records from North Dakota or for contact information for all other states’ health departments, visit www.ndhealth.gov/immunize. Staff at the clinics will make every effort to look up records for anyone who shows up without theirs.

Children entering elementary school should have five doses of DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis), four doses of IPV (polio), three doses of HBV (hepatitis B), two doses of MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), and two doses of varicella (chickenpox) vaccine. There also are vaccines required for adolescents when entering middle school. Middle school requirements include an immunization against tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal disease (MCV4). This is also an excellent time for high school seniors to be vaccinated against meningococcal disease, as they will need two doses to attend college in North Dakota next fall. Other vaccines may also be recommended for your child.

For more information on school immunization requirements, contact Molly Howell, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4556, or visit our website at www.ndhealth.gov/immunize. For information about the vaccination clinics in Williston and Watford City, contact Sherry Adams, Southwestern District Public Health Unit, at 701.290.8518. Residents in Williston can also tune their radios to 1620 AM to hear more information about the clinics.

Note to the media: The clinic times and the location in Watford City have changed from our previous news release. Any assistance you can give with distributing this updated information about these important clinics in your communities will be greatly appreciated.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.